



**Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.**

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**Testimony  
submitted to the  
Committee on Children**

**March 9, 2021**

**SB 2 AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL EQUITY AND THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND  
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education recognizes the importance of educators supporting the social-emotional learning of their students. We commend the approach in section 12 which proposes to integrate these practices into existing professional development requirements, rather than adding a new stand-alone mandate.

CABE is concerned that the requirement in section 14 that teachers conducting a parent-teacher conference virtually make an effort to “assess the student safety in the student home” may be unduly intrusive and in fact discourage families from participating in remote parent-teacher conferences.

CABE supports many of the provisions of the bill which address the social and emotional needs of our students, including the establishment of a task force to study the needs of children, allowing boards of education the flexibility to provide instruction to high school students remotely and establishing an internet access grant program to support remote instruction. We recognize that while remote instruction has been a commendable effort to provide some educational opportunity to our students during this pandemic, it is not a viable model to continue utilizing educators for in-person classroom instruction simultaneously with remote learners when the public health emergency ends.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.